

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

United States of America

v.

Criminal No. 07-cr-050-01-PB

Gene Stram

**ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL**

18 U.S.C. "§ 3142(f) does not authorize a detention hearing whenever the government thinks detention would be desirable, but rather limits such hearings to the (six circumstances listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1) and (f)(2))." United States v. Ploof, 851 F.2d 7, 10 (1st Cir. 1988). "[A] defendant's threat to the safety of other persons or to the community standing alone, will not justify pretrial detention." United States v. Byrd, 969 F.2d 106, 110 (5th Cir. 1992). In this case, the government invoked § 3142(f)(1)(A), i.e. a case involving a crime of violence. One series of photographs involves photographs of a rape of a gagged child.

The crime charged is 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(5)(B), a felony, which is found in Chapter 110. Thus, as used in 18 U.S.C. § 3142 possession of child pornography is specifically included as a "crime of violence". The detention hearing was appropriately requested.

In accordance with Section 3142(f) of the Bail Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3141 et seq., a hearing was conducted on February 12, 2007, for the purpose of determining whether to detain defendant, Gene Stram, who has been indicted on one count of possession of child pornography.

Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(b), a court, in making a determination regarding detention, must evaluate the risk of the defendant's flight, the risk to the safety of any other person, and the risk to the safety of the community. In circumstances when detention is not mandated by the court, the court is nonetheless empowered to impose conditions on release. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c).

Pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) a court, in assessing the risks noted in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(b), shall consider the following: (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense charged; (2) the weight of the evidence as to guilt; (3) the history and characteristics of the accused, including family ties, past history, financial resources and employment; and (4) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that would be posed by a release.

During the course of a hearing conducted pursuant to 18

U.S.C. § 3142, the government typically retains the burden of persuading the court that “‘no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure’ the defendant’s presence at trial.” United States v. Perez-Franco, 839 F.2d 867, 870 (1st Cir. 1988) (quoting United States v. Palmer-Contreras, 835 F.2d 15, 17-18 (1st Cir. 1987)); United States v. Patriarca, 948 F.2d 789, 793 (1st Cir. 1991). For its part, the government is required to offer clear and convincing evidence of dangerousness; and a preponderance of the evidence to prove risk of flight. See Patriarca, 948 F.2d at 792-93.

In the case at hand, the Indictment itself constitutes probable cause to believe that the offenses charged have been committed and that the defendant has committed them.

Here, I find that the government has met its burden with regard to danger to the community. Specifically, the weight of the evidence is overwhelming. Thousands of children’s porn photos are on his computer and he has shared them with children. This is a crime of violence. He is unemployed and has been. He has shown his porn to children and plied them with alcohol.

I am satisfied from the representations and documents offered during the hearing that no condition or combination of

conditions will reasonably assure the safety of the community.

Upon full consideration of the arguments offered by the government and defense, I am satisfied that the defendant poses a danger to the community.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the defendant be detained pending trial.

The defendant is committed to the custody of the Attorney General or his designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility shall deliver the defendant to the United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court proceeding.

**SO ORDERED.**

  
James R. Muirhead  
United States Magistrate Judge

February 12, 2007

cc: Donald Kennedy, Esq.  
Helen W. Fitzgibbon, Esq.  
U.S. Marshal  
U.S. Probation